United Nations A/RES/70/213

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 22 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/474/Add.2)*]

70/213. Science, technology and innovation for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005, 61/207 of 20 December 2006, 62/201 of 19 December 2007, 64/212 of 21 December 2009, 66/211 of 22 December 2011 and 68/220 of 20 December 2013,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2009/8 of 24 July 2009, 2010/3 of 19 July 2010, 2011/17 of 26 July 2011, 2012/6 of 24 July 2012, 2013/10 of 22 July 2013, 2014/28 of 16 July 2014 and 2015/27 of 22 July 2015,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[2]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

[2] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recognizing the importance of technology as one of the key means of implementation in the pursuit of sustainable development, along with finance, capacity-building, an institutional framework and trade,

Taking note of the reports of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions,[3]

Recalling its resolutions 64/208 of 21 December 2009 and 65/280 of 17 June 2011,

Recognizing the importance of the creation of a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, including an efficient, adequate, balanced and effective intellectual property framework, while encouraging access to science and technology by developing countries,

Recognizing also the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and nutrition, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, improve productivity and competitiveness and ultimately support sustainable development,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,[4]

Recognizing that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration with, as well as foreign direct investment in and trade with and among, developing countries is fundamental to enhancing their ability to produce, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

Concerned that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide,

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and enhance their productive capacity to build, support and nurture innovation capacity to enable the development, adoption and dissemination of technology,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science, technology and innovation programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and

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[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11* (E/2011/31); ibid., *2012, Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2012/31 and Corr.1); ibid., *2013, Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2013/31 and Corr.1); ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 11* (E/2014/31); and ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 11* (E/2015/31).

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Development in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Welcoming the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism by the third International Conference on Financing for Development,[5]

Noting the ongoing efforts by the World Intellectual Property Organization, under its existing mandate, to establish technology and innovation support centres in over 50 countries, providing access to technological information through patent databases and access to scientific literature through the Access to Research for Development and Innovation programme, the Access to Specialized Patent Information programme and the development of national intellectual property and innovation strategies,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

(*a*) To the actions agreed upon by the least developed countries and development partners on science, technology and innovation, as outlined in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;[7]

(*b*) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, including appropriate technology;

(*c*) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

(*d*) To support better coordination and coherence, including the application of best practices in coordination and the sharing of lessons learned among United Nations agencies and international organizations providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of science, technology and innovation directed towards development priorities and needs;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitments that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[8] has made in, inter alia, science, technology and innovation, as an important action area for sustainable development;

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[5] Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 123.

[6] A/66/208, A/68/227 and A/70/276.

[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[8] Resolution 69/313, annex.

4. *Recognizes* the current role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant United Nations entities, as well as other relevant organizations, in helping Governments, upon request, to ensure that science, technology and innovation policies are integrated into and are supportive of national development strategies and sustainable development in their countries and that their science, technology and innovation policies and programmes support national development agendas;

5. *Also recognizes* that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

6. *Further recognizes* that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and underlines that addressing barriers to equal access for women and girls to science, technology and innovation requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, and in this regard urges Governments to mainstream a gender perspective in legislation, policies and programmes;

7. *Notes* the importance of facilitating access to and sharing accessible and assistive technologies, through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and other actions, to advance disability-inclusive development, ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and promote their empowerment, recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population;

8. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[1] and to continue its science, technology and innovation activities, including by sharing best practices;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations University, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies;

10. *Encourages* the World Intellectual Property Organization to continue to undertake technical support activities, including the development of national intellectual patent and innovation strategies;

11. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

12. *Encourages* efforts to increase the availability of data to support the measurement of national innovation systems (such as the existing global innovation

[9] Resolution 70/1.

indices) and empirical research on innovation and development to assist policymakers in designing and implementing innovation strategies;

13. *Also encourages* the increase and use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, enhanced capacity-building support to developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, for this purpose, and international cooperation, including through technical and financial support, to further strengthen the capacity of national statistical authorities and bureaux;

14. *Further encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects, where feasible, by mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by the networking of sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

15. *Emphasizes* that science, technology and innovation are critical for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Encourages* the enhancement of capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes, particularly in African countries, the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

17. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen their support for the different science, technology and innovation partnerships with developing countries in primary, secondary and higher education, vocational education and continuing education, for business opportunities for the private sector, for science, technology and innovation infrastructure and for science, technology and innovation advice for developing countries;

18. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism by the third International Conference on Financing for Development[5] and its launch at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,[10] and looks forward to its full operationalization;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", a sub-item entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015

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[10] Ibid., para. 70.